

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Office of the Attorney General

ATTORNEY GENERAL
BRIAN L. SCHWALB



April 10, 2023

To whom it may concern:

The Office of Attorney General supports the critical work of DC's Access to Justice Initiative (Initiative). As the District's independently-elected Attorney General, I am acutely aware of the enormity of need that far too many low-to-moderate income DC residents have for civil legal services. The Initiative plays a critical role in funding and deploying legal service providers across the city to assist DC residents facing housing instability, domestic-and-gender-based violence, and economic vulnerability, in addition to serving local at-risk populations who rely on access to programs tailored to their unique needs. OAG, in furtherance of our obligation to protect and defend the public interest, is using the law to address many of the underlying challenges and inequities that DC residents face, but we do not represent individuals in the array of civil matters that can have a huge impact on their lives. Thousands of DC residents annually rely on legal services that the non-profits under the Initiative's umbrella provide, and a stark reduction in necessary funding to continue the Initiative's work will no doubt leave many in our Nation's Capital with a catastrophic lack of access to civil justice.

On behalf of District residents who could not otherwise obtain civil legal services, we hope you will consider the vital work of DC's Access to Justice Initiative when making your budget and funding decisions. The importance of the work that the Initiative addresses every year cannot be overstated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian L. Schwalb". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

BRIAN L. SCHWALB
Attorney General